

Draft Meeting Minutes
Command Council Meeting
USFWS office, Sacramento
November 22, 2005

1. Attendees

Steve Hampton	Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game (CDFG) - Primary Representative
Charlene Andrade	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)- Primary Representative
Jennifer Boyce	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – Primary Representative
Joanne Kerbavaz	California Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) – Alternate Representative
Sarah Mongano	California State Lands Commission (CSLC) – Primary Representative

2. Project Updates.

- (1) *Corvid Management Project*: Joanne presented a summary of the project implementation this summer, including a summary of budgeted and actual costs for various project components. Education and roving patrols are going well. The problem regarding the new dumpsters' incompatibility with the packer (garbage truck) remains unresolved, but Park staff intend to find a solution before next summer. Joanne plans to meet with park staff to discuss options on how to resolve the garbage truck issues in Dec, and will provide update to council shortly thereafter. State Parks has completed arrangements with San Mateo County Parks for project implementation to begin at Memorial Park. The county is currently preparing a workplan regarding staffing and new garbage cans. Raven removal may not occur there, pending further discussions. David Suddjian has submitted final reports for both corvid and murrelet survey efforts from 2005. A new contract is needed for surveys in 2006. Joanne will check on costs for monitoring to ensure level of activity and costs same, and or if different, document changes. Portia will review 2005 raven removal activities and provide activity report (including actual data, effectiveness, areas worked, etc) to the Council. Council approved \$35,000 to implement an outreach video. State Parks was allocated \$285,965. They have spent \$208,620. They have a remaining balance of \$77,345. They anticipate expenses in 2006 to exceed \$200,000. The Council decided to allocate **\$200,000** toward the project for 2006 and address any remaining carryover a year from now.
- (2) *Girl Scout Creek Acquisition & Enhancement Project*: The MOU regarding the transfer of the property has been finalized and signed by DFG and USFWS. State Parks still needs to sign it, but is waiting upon review by the Calif. Dept. of General Services, who oversees land acquisitions. Once the MOU is signed by all, the Council will allocate **\$350,000** to the escrow account and **\$50,000** to State Parks per Resolution 05-6.
- (3) *Sooty Shearwater Restoration Project*: Planning continues to implement the eradication of rats in summer 2006. Recent evidence suggests that weka (a rail not native to the island) do depredate shearwater nests and will need to be removed as well. As the rat eradication is not expected to fully eradicate weka, an additional removal task will need to be done. Additionally, Oikonos asked for additional funds to create a video of the project, for weka removal, and to travel to a conference (the PSG meetings in Anchorage). The Council approved all but the latter, but will re-consider presentation of results at a conference once the project is completed.

Oikonos was originally allocated \$297,369. They have spent \$68,979 and earned \$2,410.16 in interest. They have a remaining balance of \$230,800. They anticipate expenses in 2006 to be \$279,728 for the eradication and previously budgeted monitoring, \$20,000 for video development and up to \$71,652 for weka removal, for a total of \$371,380. Subtracting the remaining balance, approximately \$140,000 is needed. Thus, the Council approved a total allocation of **\$140,000**.

- (4) *Seabird Colony Protection Project*: GFNMS is beginning to implement the project. They hosted a workshop on November 3 that was well attended by various agencies and field ornithologists (as well as all the Council members). They anticipate spending all \$70,750 that was allocated. For remaining 2006 activities, the Council approved an allocation of **\$170,500**, as previously budgeted. Monitoring has been completed for 2005, and a report regarding productivity and observations of disturbance will be forthcoming. The Apex Houston Trustee Council will be phasing out their contributions toward monitoring, so that the Command Council will need to pick up a greater share of expenses (e.g. at Castle/Hurricane colony) in 2006. The Council tentatively approved a monitoring budget of **\$94,625** for 2006, as previously budgeted, but State Parks will investigate potential cost savings by provided housing for monitoring staff at Pt. Sur. Jennifer Boyce will draft a resolution to show the Council's official endorsement of this project.
- (5) *Common Murre Nesting Ledge Project on the Farallons*: Project implementation is commencing. The project received media attention in the form of a local newspaper article, highlighting the project as "environmental art". USFWS was allocated \$35,331. They will not require additional funding for 2006.
- (6) *Brown Pelican Roost Sites*: This project is temporarily on hold due to continuing negotiations between the US Navy and the USFWS regarding the possible transfer of lands to a national wildlife refuge. However, the USFWS reports that they are still interested in pursuing this project. The Council will wait for now.
- (7) *Brown Pelican Entanglement Education*: Per prior agreement, the Council is holding off on this project for this year.
- (8) *Mirada Surf Enhancements*: Sarah will work on a cooperative agreement between CSLC and San Mateo County to implement the project. The Council will allocate **\$125,000** for this project as budgeted
- (9) *Seal Cove Stairs*: This project is in the same status as the one above, and will be incorporated into the same cooperative agreement. The Council will allocate **\$50,000** for this project as budgeted.
- (10) *Half Moon Bay Stairs*: Per prior agreement, the Council is holding off on this project for this year.

3. Disbursement of Funds from the NRDAR Account for Projects. The above allocations for project implementation will require four resolutions:

1. Girl Scout Creek (resolution 05-6; already signed)
2. Seal Cove (resolution 05-7; Sarah will revise)
3. Mirada Surf (resolution 05-8; Sarah will revise)
4. Continuing Projects (Corvid Management, Sooty Shearwater, and Seabird Colony Protection and Monitoring) (Steve will draft resolution)

The total amount to be disbursed for restoration projects is approximately \$1.2 million. Steve will communicate with Bruce Nesslage of NRDAR regarding the best timing of these disbursements. Based on the duration of current investments, enough funds for nearly all this amount is available now, and the remainder will be available on Feb 23, 2006.

4. Past Resolution Regarding Administrative Costs and Cost Tracking. Steve will re-send out Resolution 05-2 (unsigned) for Council review and comments. We will have a conference call in January regarding this issue, ideally with legal staff present.
5. Next Meeting. No date has been set. The Council will consider a summer meeting at Memorial Park.
6. To do's:
 - a. Follow up on workplan from San Mateo County for corvid mgmt. Kerbavez
 - b. Work on new contract for corvid and MAMU monitoring in 2006. Kerbavez
 - c. Check on story-line of shearwater video plan. Andrade
 - d. Check on costs to remove weka. Andrade
 - e. Prepare resolution to approve long-term seabird colony protection plan. Boyce
 - f. Check on availability of housing at Pt. Sur for seabird monitoring staff. Kerbavez
 - g. Check on budget and workplan for murre nesting ledge project for 2006. Andrade
 - h. Revise resolution and workplan to fund Seal Cove Stairs project. Mongano
 - i. Revise resolution and workplan to fund Mirada Surf project. Mongano
 - j. Draft language for Mirada Surf informational sign. Boyce
 - k. Prepare new resolution to fund the continuing projects. Hampton
 - l. Check on status of cost reports and review of cost reports. Hampton
 - m. Send Resolution 05-2 to Council and arrange conference call in Jan. Hampton
 - n. Revise Trustee Council budget page once allocation amounts are final. Hampton
 - o. Arrange time and place of next meeting. Hampton